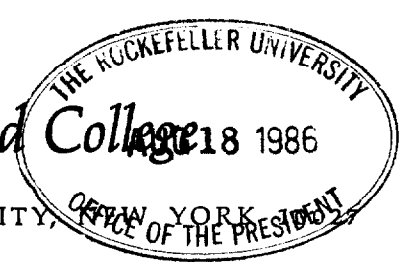


DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, NEW YORK

Barnard College
Aug 18 1986



Aug. 15, 1986

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
President
The Rockefeller University
1230 York Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10021-6399

Dear Josh,

I can't, in response to your communication of July 29, add much more than is contained in my "resistance" article. There is no reason to believe that Murray, in the volume I cited, had not made a perfectly satisfactory translation of Helmholtz's remark in his Vortrage und Reden. Moreover, since we know that Helmholtz felt he was being resisted, then his remark was to be expected.

Moreover, Humboldt's remark, as quoted by Morison is not quite of the same meaning. And, even if it were of exactly the same meaning, since many people have felt resisted (perhaps all of us at some point, rightly or wrongly), it would only be expected that they would engage in "independent multiple invention" and make some remark to the effect of being resisted or generalizing it as both Helmholtz and Humboldt did.

As to your remark, "they are all copying one another," unfortunately that happens all the time in social discourse. For a long time, for example, until careful research was done to show the limited amount of social mobility that actually occurred in American society, social historians just kept quoting one another to the effect that mobility was unlimited in the United States.

Good to be in touch with you. I hope this ends your twenty-year search.

Yours,

Barnard
Bernard Barber

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ok